

BRUCE TRAIL

TREADWAY

JANUARY '10

UPDATES
EVENTS
IDEAS
NEWS

EDITOR

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Happy 2010

GRINDSTONE BRIDGE

“Here’s how it was done”

Flooding at the Grindstone Bridge in Waterdown has been a reoccurring problem in spring for years. Located in a deep valley, the bridge when built by Bruce Trail volunteers years ago was engineered well enough to keep hikers high and dry while crossing Grindstone Creek, but once off the bridge and depending on spring run-off conditions, flood waters could make hiking in this area almost impossible. To correct this, volunteers from the Iroquoia Club decided to extend the bridge over the area susceptible to flooding. The project involved a 32-foot bridge extension, a 48-foot boardwalk and 3, 8-foot wood box culverts. But there was a problem - which probably explains why a solution was not forthcoming before now.

How do you get materials from the top of the escarpment down to the worksite, a drop of approximately 200 feet with no access close enough to facilitate the operation? Here’s how it was done.



Through the generosity of a neighbouring landowner, volunteers and materials were allowed access to farmland 200 feet directly above the worksite. Arrangements were made to have the materials delivered to this location. The extension to the bridge was then built on this site, each board predrilled and numbered. Once the structure was put together, it was then disassembled. In the meantime, a workcrew down below was preparing the supporting footings.

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Materials were delivered to the worksite below by way of a “Zip Line” - 500 feet of rope attached to nearby trees using straps and pullies. The apparatus included a carrying carriage. The system was powered by gravity and muscle - it worked like a charm.



When the foundation work was completed at the bottom worksite, the disassembled structure was lowered piece by piece. Crews below reassembled the structure following the prenumbered system.

The project is now completed. It's the product of an imaginative workplan, the approval of **Conservation Halton**, the generosity of a landowner, the financial

support of the **Toronto Dominion Bank**, who partnered with the Bruce Trail on the project and the dedication of volunteers who worked on the project for 10 weeks, 20 workparties, and contributed a total of 1200 volunteer hours. This stretch of trail offers the hiker everything that one could hope for in a hiking adventure.



Pictures by Richard Pomeroy

TSRs - How Important are They?

I asked Beth Kummling, Executive Director of the BTC (who is also a Trail Captain) how important is it that Trail Captains and Trail Monitors submit TSR reports and accompanying documentation in on time. Here is what Beth said;

Whenever there is claim of an accident on the Trail, the first question by the insurance adjustor is “How are the trails maintained, and who does the work?” to which we reply that all of our trail development and maintenance work is performed by volunteers. We explain about our trail monitoring program, and how every step of the Trail is monitored at least twice annually by a volunteer. We also explain that the volunteers fill out Trail Status Reports which document their visits to the Trail.

It doesn't mean that we'll identify absolutely everything, but it does show that we have not been negligent in our work. Copies of the TSRs and accompanying or follow-up documentation are usually provided to the insurance adjusters if the incident did indeed happen on the Trail. In other words, they're **really** important.

